

## **Tribal and International Affairs**

### **Activity, Accomplishments and Issues, 19—23 June 2017**

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#### **Grants Management and TEAs**

- Advanced **GAP grants** mgt:
  - Initiated awards: Sokoagon, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
  - Received final Financial Federal Report 23 June re Lac Courtes Oreilles. All GAP actions stopped, pending review by EPA Las Vegas Office and resolution of deficiencies.
  - Began closeout of overdue Mille Lacs PPG. WD reviewing final deliverables.
  - Reviewed workplan: Leech Lake.
- Advanced **Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs)**:
  - Supplemental awards: Bois Forte (lead, 106), White Earth (pesticides, 106), Saginaw Chippewa (106, 319).
  - Supplementals to add national competitive 319 grants: Prairie Island, Stockbridge-Munsee.
  - Incremental awards: Bois Forte (106), Notawaseppi Huron (128a).
  - Initiated alignment of funding cycles for CWA PPG and stand-alone GAP (Red Cliff, WD).
  - Initiated internal review of PPG applications: Hannahville (GAP, CWA), Pokagon (GAP, CWA).
  - Responded to PPG closeout questions (Forest County, Mille Lacs)
  - Responded to FY 2018-2019 PPG application questions (Stockbridge-Munsee, Red Lake).
  - Reviewed and amended workplans, QAPP (Hannahville, Pokagon, Prairie Island, Red Lake).
- Received notice that Bois Forte lead program would not be funded in FY 2018, raising questions of authorized program implementation. LCD has scheduled informational meeting 5 July.
- Participated in finalization of 2016 NEPPS Implementation Survey (M Santos).

#### **Tribal Relations**

- Reservations or communities visited: none.
- Visits planned: Analyst visit to Red Lake, TIAO participation in MTEG 11-12 July 2017.
- Responded to requests for EPA participation in two multi-agency resource management meetings.
- Continued to facilitate LUST cleanup at Lac du Flambeau. WDNR schedule calls for monitoring wells to be installed < 2 months. Additional tech and manager meetings planned to consider interim remedial action.
- Completed office-wide training in new TCOTs system and distributed updated R5 information.
- Responded to tribal and EPA requests for information / support / involvement in the following:
  - testing of ash strips used in basketmaking for residual pesticides (Pokagon, LCD).
  - Michigan application for Minor New Source SIP (Keweenaw Bay, Little River, ARD).
  - Enbridge Consent Decree consultation. Response likely to be negative (ORC, HQ OECA, AIEO).
  - tribal contact information re MN EIS on Enbridge Line 3 (OECA).

#### **Planning**

- Identified ETEPs for FY 2018 updates.
- Convened regularly scheduled TIAO program analyst meeting to review progress and plan ahead.
- Developed strategy on potential FY 2018 DITCAs for Class V wells in Wisconsin (WD UIC branch).
- Contributed to spill response training (Bad River, SFD, US Coast Guard).
- Participated in conference call to develop geographic response strategy for hazmat incidents in Big Bay De Noc and Little Bay De Noc on Lake Michigan. Tabletop exercise planned for October 2017. (Hannahville, Little Traverse, USCG, MDEQ, WDNR).
- Completed internal GAP strategy to address outyear budget scenarios without undue burden on any tribe, taking into account staggered funding cycles. All tribes will be fully funded in FY 2017. For maximum flexibility with no added risk of swept funding, FY 2018 awards will be initially reduced to \$212.3k, but retain usual ceiling of \$220. Awards will be incrementally funded to the ceiling if total funding is unchanged. Outyear plans responsive to funding reductions are in place through FY 2022.
- Participated in HQ discussion of Brownfields/PPG. HQ coordination guidance expected soon (OGD, OITA).

- Identified issues in coordination of ARD funding within PPGs. Staff level discussions elevated to directors.
- Re-scheduled R5TOC at Lower Sioux, 22-23 August 2017 (Lower Sioux, RTC).
- Continued development of TIAO sharepoint sites, uploading packages from past R5TOCs.
- Distributed list of 2010-2017 R5TOCs to RTC members to assist in identifying November 2017 host.
- Reviewed several press releases for OEC.
- Distributed AIEO questionnaires re GAP success stories to RIWG.
- Continued routine review of news publications and forwarded information of interest to RIWG.
- Participated in R5 office cleanup day, filling three large bins with material pre-identified for release. Continued records management, clearing additional old grants files.
- Participated in managers' meetings re planned VERA/VSIP. No TIAO positions involved.

### **International Relations**

- Two EPA staff traveling to Costa Rica next week.
- A municipal delegation will visit from Wuhan, China in August to discuss 1) environmental protection for rivers and small lakes; and 2) coordination of multiple jurisdictions and enforcement.
- Posted appeal for conversationally fluent R5 staff interested in making welcoming remarks to foreign visitors. Request posted in RMD Regional Roundup 20 June 2017.
- Continued to store R5 official passports under double lockdown.